SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFICIENT SELECTION OF A PACKET DATA SERVICING NODE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data communication system 10 is provided that allow for the efficient management of data communication sessions requested from a plurality of packet data servicing nodes (22-28) which are organized in a cluster 32, each member of the cluster 32 manages a cluster session table which contains data identifying mobile units 12 and packet data servicing nodes (22-28) which are servicing data sessions with the mobile unit 12. As a mobile unit 12 moves from one portion of the system 10 to another, a network element such as a base station controller 40 will request a data session from a packet data servicing node 28, the packet data servicing node 28 is then able to access the cluster session table to determine if the data session is already being served by another member of the cluster 32. If the data session is already in existence, the base station controller 40 will be directed to request a data session from the packet data servicing node 32 which is already servicing that session. In this manner, the hand off of data communication sessions between packet data servicing nodes is reduced or eliminated.